



Colonial Pipeline CR251 Rupture Pelham, Shelby County, Alabama Situation Report #6

November 5, 2016

1800

NRC #1162982

INCIDENT DESCRIPTION

On Monday, October 31 at approximately 1450 CDT, a pipeline accident occurred in Helena, Alabama, in which one worker died and four others were seriously injured. The 36-inch diameter pipeline carrying gasoline, operated by Colonial Pipeline, ruptured during maintenance operations. At 1656 hours, Colonial Pipeline reported the incident to the National Response Center.

The exact amount of the release is unknown; however, Colonial Pipeline has estimated that between 3,300 and 4,000 barrels of gasoline were released. Both main pipelines were shut down. The local fire department responded and contained the fire around the ruptured site. The Alabama Forestry Commission and Shelby County Highway Department constructed an earthen berm to contain the gasoline and cut a fire break. Line 2 was restarted at 2250 hours on October 31 at a reduced rate.

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), Alabama Emergency Management Agency (EMA), Shelby County EMA, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), US Department of Interior (DOI) Region 4, were notified. The EPA, ADEM, Colonial Pipeline, and local emergency responders are on scene and have integrated into the Unified Command (UC).

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

- **ONGOING:** The PIO continues to coordinate press releases with Colonial Pipeline through the JIC.
- **ONGOING:** The NTSB assessment has transitioned to a full investigation. NTSB communications restrictions are being implemented due to the investigation. No photos of the pipe leak site or equipment at the scene when the incident occurred are to be disseminated to the public.
- **NEW:** An OSHA representative arrived onsite November 4 to observe the release location.
- **NEW:** A US Fish & Wildlife representative arrived onsite November 4 to observe boom locations and assess concerns regarding a possible threatened and endangered species of snail.

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT AND STAFFING

EPA's integration into the Colonial Pipeline Incident Command structure has provided numerous benefits to the response and further ensured that operations ran successfully. This has been accomplished through working directly with the Environmental Unit on sampling and monitoring, the Situation Unit, the Planning Section, Safety, Unified Command, and with overall operations related to this unfortunate incident. All EPA staff, USCG GST and support contractors are fully embedded into the Colonial Pipeline incident management structure. The number of personnel managing the incident is as follows:

Current number	Number
EPA	6 (1 working from R4 REOC)
USCG GST	4
START	3
Total Response Personnel	591

CURRENT RELEASE AND RECOVERY ESTIMATES

- Current Release Estimate remains unchanged at 3,300 bbl to 4,000 bbls¹
- **NEW:** Product recovery from the pipeline (drain-up) was completed during night operations. A total of approximately 783 barrels (32,886 gallons) of product were recovered and transferred to the four frac tanks.
- **NEW:** Mechanical excavation of soil from the incident area began at approximately 0500 on November 5. Excavated soil is being temporarily stockpiled for future transportation and disposal at an approved landfill. Stockpiles will be placed on Visqueen with a constructed earthen berm to prevent runoff or migration of the impacted soils.

REPORTING SCHEDULE

Situation Reports (SITREPS) will be delivered daily at 1800 hours EDT.

CURRENT OPERATIONS

1) Environmental Sampling and Impacts

a. Air Monitoring

- **ONGOING:** CTEH continues conducting air monitoring at the frac tank staging area, TORs, and release during recovery and excavation efforts.
- **ONGOING:** CTEH continues performing 24-hour mobile air monitoring at and near the incident area, as well as at nearby homes to the northwest and southeast of the incident area. Air monitoring results from 0600 hours CDT on

¹ 1 barrel (bbl) = 42 gallons

November 4, through 0600 hours CDT on November 5 indicated no detections above site action levels at the nearby residential areas located northwest and southeast of the incident area, except for particulate matter 2.5 micrometers or less (PM_{2.5}). Air monitoring results indicated one spike in the PM_{2.5} concentration (0.146 mg/m³) at the residences located southeast of the incident area. In the vicinity of the ongoing worker operations at the TORs and the leak site, air monitoring results indicated spikes above the worker action levels in the concentrations of PM_{2.5} (0.335 mg/m³), benzene (0.8 ppm), LEL (8%), and VOCs (405 ppm).

- **ONGOING:** CTEH continues analytical air sampling at five locations near the homes located northwest (Bent Pine Drive) and southeast of the incident area along County Road 251.
- **ONGOING:** CTEH continues to upload air sampling data to the SCRIBE database.
- b. Water/Sediment Sampling and National Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA)
 - Environmental Planning Specialists (EPS) continues surface water sampling, including locations along the Cahaba River, Shades Creek, and the pond located southeast of the incident area.

2) Local Response Actions

- The air space restriction to 1,500 feet and a 1.5 mile radius around the incident area remains in effect until 0000 hours on November 7, 2016.

3) Health and Safety

- CTEH continues to conduct air monitoring and address health and safety concerns during response activities.
- USCG Gulf Strike Team continues to provide health and safety oversight of response operations.

4) Communications

- **ONGOING:** NTSB communications requirements are being implemented for parties involved in the incident investigation. EPA continues to coordinate press releases with Colonial Pipeline through the JIC.

5) Fuel Supply

- No change in the waiver status.

PLANNED RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

- Continue product recovery (residual), as necessary, from Line 1 in preparation for replacement of the damaged section at the incident area.
- Complete excavation along the pipeline at the incident area in preparation for the replacement of the damaged section.

- **NEW:** Remove and replace the damaged section of pipeline to restore Line 1 to service.
- **NEW:** Transfer product from the four frac tanks to Pelham Junction (tentatively scheduled to occur Monday November 7).
- CTEH will continue air monitoring and sampling.
- Complete and approve the Transition Plan for moving from emergency to removal phase.
- Continue preparing and releasing updates for the media outlets.
- **NEW:** Prepare for demobilization.